

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 975

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jeff Aiken of Washington County on the occasion of his retirement as president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Aiken of Washington County is one such person who has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order as president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation; and

WHEREAS, only the eighth president in the organization's 100-year history, Mr. Aiken is taking his leave of that esteemed position, having served with acumen and alacrity during his six-year tenure; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation enjoyed much success under the leadership of Mr. Aiken, as it saw its membership grow by more than 35,000 family members to an all-time high of more than 680,000 members statewide; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Aiken is a third-generation beef cattle, hay, corn, and tobacco farmer; he and his wife, Carol, farm with his two brothers and manage a family farm operation of more than 900 acres in Telford; and

WHEREAS, Jeff and Carol Aiken became involved with Farm Bureau through the Young Farmers and Ranchers organization, which he served as state chairman in 1992, and were named Tennessee Young Farmers of the Year in 1993; and

WHEREAS, he went on to serve as a board member and president of the Washington County Farm Bureau and was first elected to the state board of the Tennessee Farm Bureau as a director-at-large in 1998; and

WHEREAS, at the state level, Mr. Aiken was elected to serve as vice president in 2012 before being elected to the office of president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation in 2015; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and admired by his peers, Jeff Aiken has rendered sterling service on the board of directors of the American Farm Bureau and on numerous boards and state and local organizations, including the Tennessee FFA Foundation, the Tennessee State Fair Commission, the Governor's Rural Task Force, the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and First Farmers and Merchants Bank; and

WHEREAS, he was selected by Governor Bill Lee to serve on Tennessee's Economic Recovery Group to represent the interests of the agriculture community when preparing guidance to safely reboot the State's economy during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, his remarkable success as an agricultural professional and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Aiken exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding tenure, Mr. Aiken has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues in the farming industry and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Jeff Aiken on the occasion of his retirement as president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and express our thanks for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.